

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SECTO 09038 01 OF 02 082032Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----003191 082043Z /70

O 081530Z AUG 78

FM USDEL SECRETARY ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SECTO 9038

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

FOR NEWSOM AND DRAPER FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, MILI, SY, LE, IS

SUBJECT: ACTIONS ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 199193 (TOSEC 090033)

(B) USUN 03130 (TOSEC 090035)

1. OVER THE PAST THREE DAYS I HAVE HAD DETAILED DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH ISRAELIS AND, TODAY, WITH EGYPTIANS.
I HAVE READ REFTELS AND CAREFULLY CONSIDERED OPTIONS
THEY POSE. MY THOUGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS.

2. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THE COURSE
RECOMMENDED IN REFTEL A, I.E., APPROACHING THE
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GOVERNMENTS OF SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN, UAE, KUWAIT
TO URGE AN EARLY MEETING BETWEEN THEM AND THE LEBANESE
GOVERNMENT. THESE APPROACHES SHOULD BE MADE
URGENTLY AND INCLUDE OUR CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE
OUTBREAK OF NEW ROUND OF FIGHTING IN PERIOD
AUGUST 8-10. PURPOSE OF THESE APPROACHES IS,
AMONG OTHERS, TO BUILD ARAB RESTRAINTS AGAINST

SYRIAN-LEBANESE MOVE TO CRUSH CHRISTIAN MILITIAS.

3. IN THAT CONNECTION, ATHERTON IS PREPARED WITH WEST TO RAISE THIS IN HIS MEETINGS AUGUST 9-10 IN SAUDI ARABIA. THESE COULD BE THE KEY TO SUCCESS SINCE SAUDIS HAVE PLAYED CENTRAL ROLE IN THE PAST IN DRAWING ARABS TOGETHER IN EFFORT TO STABILIZE LEBANON. DEPARTMENT SHOULD PROVIDE TALKING POINTS FOR ATHERTON HERE IN ALEXANDRIA BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

4. I BELIEVE THE DISADVANTAGES IN MY TRYING TO SEE ASSAD ON THIS TRIP OUTWEIGH POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES IN LEBANESE CONTEXT, ESPECIALLY GIVEN CONCENTRATION OF MY PRESENT TRIP ON ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE PROCESS. I CANNOT SPARE ATHERTON OR SAUNDERS FOR THIS PURPOSE AT THIS MOMENT.

5. I ALSO BELIEVE WE SHOULD EXPLORE URGENTLY AT US THE POSSIBILITY OF A SPECIAL MISSION FROM NEW YORK. IT OCCURS TO US THAT THIS MIGHT BE DESIGNED AS PRELUDE TO INTRODUCING HIGHER-LEVEL UN POLITICAL PRESENCE IN BEIRUT. WE RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTIES OF TUENI'S SUGGESTED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RECOGNIZE WE WOULD HAVE TO PROPOSE OUR OWN.

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6. IN OUR DELIBERATIONS HERE, WE HAVE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WHAT MORE MIGHT BE DONE TO GET THROUGH TO CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS IN BEIRUT. I SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSIDER FOLLOWING:

A. A FULL DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM WITH DE LABOULAYE -- NOT JUST A REVIEW OF THE TACTICAL SITUATION BUT COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT PROBLEM OF RESTRAINING CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS. OPERATIONAL PURPOSE WOULD BE TO REACH UNDERSTANDING, AFTER HE COMMUNICATES WITH PARIS, ON SPECIFIC LINE OF APPROACHES FRENCH WOULD MAKE IN BEIRUT.

B. ANOTHER ROUND OF COMMUNICATIONS BY PARKER IN BEIRUT WITH KEY CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS FOR THIS PURPOSE. REQUEST PARKER'S COMMENTS ON NATURE OF APPROACH AND WHETHER WE COULD HOPE TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING BY REDOUBLED EFFORT ON THIS FRONT.

C. GO BACK TO TUENI AND DISCUSS WHAT MIGHT BE DONE ON CHRISTIAN SIDE IN BEIRUT IF COUPLED WITH MOVE OR MOVES ON ARAB SIDE DESCRIBED ABOVE.

D. DELICATE QUESTION IS WHETHER AND HOW TO
GET MESSAGE TO CHRISTIANS THROUGH THEIR VARIOUS SUPPORTERS
IN US. IS THERE ADVANTAGE IN FRANK REVIEW OF PORBLEM
WITH KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, ESPECIALLY THOS E CLOSE TO
LE ANON? APPROACH WOULD HAVE TO BE IN CONTEXT OF
COMPREHENSIVE NEW US APPROACHES TO ALL PARTIES
TO CONFLICT. IN THIS CONNECTON DRAPER
SOULD USE BRIEFING OF SHIRABI AND NAAA
GROUP IN VERY CANDID WAY BEFORE THEY LEAVE ON TRIP
TO DAMASUCS AND BEIRUT THIS WEEK.

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 SECTO 9038

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

FOR NEWSOM AND DRAPER FROM SECRETARY

E. I KNOW LEWIS HAS HAD THIS CONVERSATION WITH
ISRAELIS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, AND I MYSELF ENGAGED
IN DISCUSSING PROBLEMS RAISED BY PROPOSED SHIPMENT
OF ISRAELI TANKS. HOWEVER, IN CONTEXT OF BRIADER
ROUND OF RENEWED US APPROACHES THIS SHOULD BE DONE
AGAIN.

F.I ALSO BELIEVE THERE MAY BE SOMETHING TO BE
GAINED BY RAISING THIS SUBJECT WITH KING HUSSEIN.

AS WITH SAUDIS, I WILL ASK ATHERTON TO DO SO ALONG
WITH SUDDARTH. PLEASE PROVIDE TALKING POINTS.

G. ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE VATICAN WILL BE HEAVILY
PREOCCUPIED, BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE WAY OF URGING
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APPROACH THROUGH CLERICAL CHANNELS.

7. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADDRESS SOUTH LEBANON
PROBLEM.

8. DEPARTMENT PLEASE DEVELOP DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS
ALONG ABOVE LINES, ADJUSTING TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF
SITUATION AS YOU SEE IT. APPROACH SHOULD REFLECT
NEED FOR REDOUBLED EFFORT BY EVERYONE INTERESTED
REFLECTING NEED TO ADDRESS ALL ASPECTS OF
PROBLEM. WE ARE NOT JUST LEANING ON ONE SIDE
OR THE OTHER.
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